

## **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 7 are editorially amended. Claims 1-9 are pending, with claims 1 and 7 being independent.

### **Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-9 stand rejected being unpatentable over EP 0477913A2 (Takashi). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a bent glass sheet for a vehicle. All points on the curved surface have a maximum curvature in a direction of one of two tangent vectors that contact the curved surface and are perpendicular to each other, and have a minimum curvature in the direction of the other of the tangent vectors. All the points have substantially the same maximum curvature. A curvature at every point on a curved line formed by crossing the curved surface and a flat plane including a normal vector at one point on the curved surface and a tangent vector providing the maximum curvature at the one point is substantially equal to the maximum curvature. By this arrangement, the bent glass sheet is bent with a high degree of accuracy—that is, in which all points on a curved surface satisfy the recited conditions.

Although Takashi discloses that a glass sheet can be bent into a shape substantially corresponding to that of a conveying surface, Takashi does not teach or suggest the high degree of accuracy as recited in claim 1. In this regard, Applicant notes that Takashi corresponds to JP5-9037A as discussed at page 3 of the present specification. As noted at page 3 of the specification, the glass sheet disclosed in JP5-9037A, and the corresponding disclosure of Takashi, cannot be oriented stably and accuracy of bending suffers as a result.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 7 is directed to a bent glass sheet for a vehicle window. The bent glass sheet is formed such that the parallel translation a first curved line is translated out of the flat plane so that loci of all points composing the first curved line describe a group of second curved lines having a predetermined radius of curvature. The second curved lines are substantially parallel to each other and substantially identical in length. By this arrangement, the bent glass sheet is bent

with a high degree of accuracy—that is, in which all points on a curved surface satisfy the recited conditions.

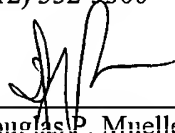
As discussed above, Takashi does not disclose or suggest a bent glass sheet formed with such a high degree of accuracy. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7 and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300



Date: December 8, 2003

---

Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
DPM:DTL